U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION	NUMBER: 1042-144
SUBJECT: Resource Advisory Committees for the States of Oregon and Washington	DATE: October 26, 2001 OPI: Forest Service

1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

a This regulation establishes seven Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) for the State of Oregon and eleven Resource Advisory Committees for the State of Washington. The purpose of the RACs is to improve collaborative relationships and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service consistent with the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. No. 106-393) (the Act), which governs the RACs and the charter.

b The RACs for the State of Oregon are as follows:

(1) (1) Siuslaw RAC, responsible for the area that includes the Siuslaw National Forest (Tillamook, Lincoln, Yamhill, Benton, Lane, Douglas, Polk, Coos, and Counties);

(2) (2) Northeast Oregon Forests RAC, responsible for an area that includes the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests (Wallowa, Umatilla, Malheur, Wheeler, Grant, Baker, Harney, Crook, Morrow, and Union Counties);

(3) (3) Winema and Fremont RAC, responsible for an area that includes the Winema and Fremont National Forests (Lake and Klamath Counties);

(4) (4) Rogue and Umpqua RAC, responsible for an area that includes the Rogue, Umpqua, and Klamath National Forests (Lane, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, and Klamath Counties);

(5) (5) Deschutes and Ochoco RAC, responsible for an area that includes the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests (Grant, Crook, Wheeler, Jefferson, Deschutes, Klamath, and Lake Counties);

(6) (6) Hood and Willamette RAC, which includes the area of the Mt. Hood and Willamette National Forests, and the southern portion of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (Wasco, Hood River, Multnomah, Clackamas, Marion, Linn, Lane and Jefferson Counties);

(7) (7) Siskiyou RAC, which includes the area of the Siskiyou National Forest (Coos, Curry, and Josephine Counties)

c The RACs for the State of Washington are as follows:

(1) (1) North Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie RAC, which includes the area of the northern portion of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest; (Whatcom and Skagit Counties);

(2) (2) Snohomish County RAC, which includes the area of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest; (Snohomish County);

(3) (3) South Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie RAC, which includes the southern portion of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest; (King and Pierce Counties);

(4) (4) North Gifford Pinchot RAC, which includes the area of the north
half of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest; (Lewis and Skamania Counties);

(5) (5) South Gifford Pinchot RAC, which includes the area of the southern half of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and the Washington side of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area; (Skamania, Cowlitz, and Klickitat Counties);

(6) (6) Colville RAC, which includes the area of the Colville National Forest; Olympic Peninsula RAC, which includes the Olympic National Forest; (Stevens, Ferry, and Pend Oreille Counties);

(7) (7) Grays Harbor RAC, which includes the Olympic National Forest; (Grays Harbor County);

(8) (8) Columbia County RAC, which includes the area of the west portion of the Umatilla National Forest; (Columbia County);

(9) (9) Southeast Washington Forest RAC, which includes the area of the east portion of the Umatilla National Forest; (Garfield and Asotin Counties);

(10) Wenatchee/Okanogan RAC, which includes the area of the Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forests; (Okanogan, Chelan, Kittitas, and Yakima Counties);

(11) Olympic Peninsula RAC, which includes the administrative area of the Olympic National Forest; (Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, and Thurston Counties);

2 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

a This regulation will expire 2 years from the date of filing unless renewed by proper authority and appropriate action.

b Projects recommended to the Secretary of Agriculture must be approved by a majority of the members from each of the three membership categories.

3 OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP

a Each RAC shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Committee members shall be representative of the interests of the following three categories:

(1) Five persons who—

(a) Represent organized labor;

(b) Represent developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities;

(c) (c) Represent energy and mineral development interests;

(d) Represent the commercial timber industry; or

(e) Hold Federal grazing permits or other land use permit within the area for which the committee is organized.

(2) Five persons representing—

(a) Nationally recognized environmental organizations;

(b) Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations;

(c) Dispersed recreational activities;

(d) Archaeological and historical interests; or

(e) Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups.

(3) Five persons who—

(a) Hold State elected office or their designee;

(b) Hold county or local elected office;

(c) Represent American Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the committee is organized;

(d) Are school officials or teachers; or

(e) Represent the affected public-at-large.

b RAC members shall serve 3-year terms.

c The Chairperson of each RAC shall be elected by the RAC from among its members for a term of 1 year.

d The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint a designated Federal officer (DFO) under sections 10(e) and (f) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., for each RAC.

e Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, shall be followed in all membership appointments to the committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

f If a RAC member fails to attend (in person or by telephonic or electronic means) two consecutive official meetings, the Secretary may remove that member from the RAC.

g A vacancy on a RAC shall be filled in the manner of the original

appointment. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which his/her predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term. A replacement shall fill the vacancy as soon as practicable after the vacancy occurs.

h The Secretary shall appoint one replacement for each membership category. Should a vacancy occur, the replacement shall be available to fill the vacancy immediately.

i Membership shall be a balanced and broad representation from within each of the three membership groups.

j Members shall reside within the state or states in which the RAC has jurisdiction. To the extent practicable, each of the three categories shall be composed of local representatives.

4 DUTIES

a Each RAC shall review projects proposed under Title II of the Act by participating counties and other persons.

b Each RAC shall propose projects and funding to the Secretary of Agriculture under section 203 of the Act.

c Each RAC shall provide early and continuous coordination with appropriate Forest Service officials in recommending projects consistent with Title II of the Act.

d Each RAC shall provide frequent opportunities for citizens, organizations, tribes, land management agencies, and other interested parties to participate openly and meaningfully, beginning at the early stages of the project development process under Title II of the Act.

e Each RAC may create and operate subcommittees recommended by a majority of the committee members and approved by the Secretary or the DFO.

f Consistent with applicable laws and Department regulations, each RAC may adopt such by-laws or rules of operation as it deems advisable.

5 ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS

a Members of the Committee serve without compensation. Reimbursement for travel and per diem for attendance at RAC meetings called by the Chairperson and with an agenda approved by the DFO will be determined on a forest-by-forest basis with a view to budgetary constraints and the need to achieve adequate representation of necessary groups.

b Annual operating costs are estimated to be between $30,000 and $50,000 per year and 0.25 to 0.5 staff years of support per committee.

6 NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

a The RACs will meet as often as is necessary to complete their business.

b A majority of the members of the RAC must be present to constitute an official meeting of the committee.

c The approval of majority of the members of each of the three membership categories of the RAC shall be required to approve a project for recommendation to the Secretary.

7 REPORTS/SUPPORT

a The RACs report to the Secretary of Agriculture through the appropriate forest supervisor.

b Support for the RACs shall be provided by the Forest Service.

8 INTERPRETATION

For guidance as to its duties, the RAC should consult the Act (copy attached). In the event the RAC is uncertain with regard to its duties or procedures, it should consult the appropriate forest supervisor. The Secretary shall resolve ambiguities using first, the law, and then any relevant legislative history.

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